

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 AID-20 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 EB-11 OMB-01 MBFR-03 ACDA-19

GAC-01 STR-08 NEA-10 RSR-01 CIEP-02 /178 W

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R 301225 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4253

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION NATO

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MT

SUBJECT: MINTOFF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC POLICY STATEMENT

1. AT A JOINT GWU- MLP RALLY APRIL 29, WHICH KICKED OFF MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS, MINTOFF SPOKE AT LENGTH ON FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. PRESIDENTS OF BOTH GWU AND MLP SHARED SPEAKERS PLATFORM, TOGETHER WITH PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER LORRY SANT, YOUNG LABOR MP JOHN DALLI, AND JERRY SWENSON OF THE SWEDISH SOCIALIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION.

2. ON MIDDLE EAST, MINTOFF SAID THAT SITUATION WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS. GOM HAD TRIED ITS BEST TO GET TWO SIDES TOGETHER AND HIS IMMINENT TRIP TO ROME, PARIS, BRUSSELS

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AND LONDON WOULD BE AIMED AT ESTABLISHING A BETTER UNDER-

STANDING BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE. MALTA HAD TRIED TO BUILD BRIDGE BETWEEN EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA. AFRICA WANTED SUCH BRIDGE, BUT UNFORTUNATELY ITALY DID NOT WANT TO SHOW THAT IT SERIOUSLY WANTED IT. (ANY COMMENTS ROME OR TRIPOLI MAY WANT TO MAKE ON THIS POINT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.)

3. ON RELATIONS WITH THE WEST, HE SAID THAT GOM IS NOT AGAINST THE WEST, THE WEST IS AGAINST US. THE WEST HAD NOT KEPT ITS PROMISE TO HELP. LAST APRIL, EUROPEAN MINISTERS HAD PROMISED URGENTLY TO CONSIDER MALTA' S CASE (PRESUMABLY IN EC). ALTHOUGH REPORT ON MALTA HAD BEEN MADE, NO STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN. IF THEY WANT MALTA TO STAY WITH THE WEST, THE WEST HAS TO HELP, OTHERWISE MALTA WOULD COME TO CONCLUSION THAT WEST WAS AGAINST IT.

4. AFTER PRAISING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PIONEER CORPS, ROLL ON OLL OFF FACILITIES, AND AIR MALTA, MINTOFF SAID GOM WAS GETTING FED UP WITH EVER INCREASING FREIGHT RATES AND THAT IT WOULD ALSO SET UP ITS OWN SHIPPING COMPANY.

5. ON THE DRYDOCKS, MINTOFF PRAISED THE EFFORTS OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKERS, AND NOTED THAT THE LOSS LAST MONTH HAD BEEN REDUCED FROM MALTA POUNDS 200,000 TO ONLY MALTA POUNDS 80,000. HE CRITICIZED THE NON- INDUSTRIALS. IF THEY CAN' T DO THE JOB, GOM WILL BRING SOMEONE ELSE IN, EVEN IF IT COST MORE MONEY.

6. ON CIVIL SERVICE REORGANIZATION, HE SAID REDUNDANT WORKERS WOULD NOT BE FIRED, AND CALLED FOR MORE COOPERATION SO THAT THEY COULD BE SHIFTED TO OTHER DEPARTMENTS.

7. MINTOFF CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT MALTA WANTED TO ATTRACT FOREIGN INVESTORS, AND, AT THE SAME TIME, IT WANTED MALTESE TO START NEW INDUSTRIES THEMSELVES.

8. COMMENT: EVENT WAS WELL ATTENDED AND IMPORTANT SHOW OF GWU- MLP SOLIDARITY. APPARENT THAT REVISION OF EC AGREEMENT, EC ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND MIDDLE EAST WILL BE PRIME TOPICS IN HIS FORTHCOMING MEETINGS IN ROME, BRUSSELS, PARIS AND LONDON.
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